

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 MCT-01 IO-13 /079 W
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R 141120Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7114
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COMIPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CE

SUBJ: PM WARNS J.R. OF RENEWED INSURGENT ACTIVITY

REF: (A) COLOMBO 703; (B) COLOMBO 902

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE HAS INFORMED OPPOSITION LEADER J.R. JAYEWARDENE THAT SECURITY FORCES HAVE NOTED AND ARE CONCERNED ABOUT INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRY. PRESS REPORTS HAVE IMPLIED THAT THE INCREASED CONCERN DATES FROM THE LAPSE OF THE EMERGENCY FEBRUARY 17 AND THE CONSEQUENT LEGALIZATION OF THE FORMERLY PROSCRIBED JANATA VIMUKTI PERAMUNA (JVP). THE PM MENTIONED BOTH OPEN POLITICAL ORGANIZING (REFTELS) AND UNDERGROUND "TERRORIST" ACTIVITIES AS MATTERS OF CONCERN. ACCORDING TO A PRESS REPORT OF THE PM'S MEETING WITH J.R., "ARMED GANGS ARE ON THE PROWL ENGAGED IN A SPATE OF ORGANIZED ROBBERIES ALLEGEDLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF BOTAINING FUNDS FOR THE MOVEMENT." SHE ALLEGED THAT THESE GROUPS ARE LED BY THE SAME NEOINSURGENT

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ORGANIZATIONS NOW HOLDING PUBLIC MEETINGS AROUND THE COUNTRY. IN RESPONSE TO THESE CONCERNS, THE PRESS REPORTED, "MASSIVE SECURITY SCHEME" WILL BE IN OPERATION UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS.

2. THE PM IS SAID TO HAVE NOTED POINTEDLY TO J.R. THAT SHE HAD NOT BEEN KEPT INFORMED OF INSURGENT ACTIVITIES WHEN SHE

WAS LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION BEFORE 1970.

3. THE JVP, IN ANOTHER OF ITS PUBLIC RALLIES EARLIER THIS WEEK, CONDEMNED NEWSPAPER ALLEGATIONS THAT "EVERY ROBBERY AND THEFT WAS LINKED TO SOME POLITICAL MOVEMENT." IN FACT, SPOKESMEN FOR THE "NEW" JVP HAVE STATED BEFORE THAT THEY HAVE TOLD THEIR FOLLOWERS NOT TO ARM THEMSELVES OR ENGAGE IN ROBBERY (REFTEL B). END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE PM'S CONVERSATION WITH J.R. WAS RELATIVELY ROUTINE AND DOES NOT INDICATE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN INSURGENT ACTIVITIES NOR THAT THERE WILL BE A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN TO WIPE OUT ANY POCKETS THAT MIGHT REMAIN. RECENT EMBASSY CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR POLICE AND ARMY OFFICIALS BEAR OUT OUR EVALUATION THAT THERE IS NO ATMOSPHERE OF CRISIS, BUT RATHER A CONTINUING STATE OF VIGILANCE, HEIGHTENED IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS BY THE NEW PUBLIC PROMINENCE OF THE NOW-LEGALIZED INSURGENT GROUPS. IF THE RECENT SPATE OF ROBBERIES IS PARTLY INSURGENT-RELATED, AS SEEMS LIKELY, IT WOULD NOT BE UNIQUE; SUCH REPORTS HAVE APPEARED PERIODICALLY IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS.

5. THE PM'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE POLITICAL, RATHER THAN SECURITY, CHALLENGE POSED BY THE SEVERAL NEW EX-INSURGENT-BASED PARTIES IS UNKNOWN. SINCE THOSE PARTIES HAVE BEEN VERY CRITICAL OF HER GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS OF EVERY OTHER GROUP IN THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, IT IS AT LEAST CONCEIVABLE THAT SHE IS CONTEMPLATING BUILDING A CASE AGAINST THEM IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREPARATIONS FOR SOME SUPPRESSIVE ACTION. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
REED

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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